

Amendments to Claims:

Please cancel without prejudice, claims 7, 17 and 22-26, and amend claims 1, 2, 6, 11, 12, 16 and 18 as indicated. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system for removing fumes from an endoscope disinfecting apparatus configured for disinfecting an endoscope with a disinfecting solution, said exhaust system comprising:

a soaking basin;

a basin lid;

a fan housing;

a fan disposed within said fan housing;

an exhaust hose connected to said fan housing; and

wherein said exhaust system is connected to said endoscope disinfecting apparatus and further includes a suction hose having a first end and a second end, said first end being connected to said lid and said second end being connected to said fan housing such that said fan is communicatively coupled to a vapor space.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein [said endoscope disinfecting apparatus further includes a soaking basin and a basin lid,] said lid being configured to contain fumes from the disinfecting solution within [a] said vapor space defined by said lid, said soaking basin, and a surface of the disinfecting solution.

3. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein said fan housing is connected to said soaking basin such that said fan is communicatively coupled to said vapor space.

4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein said fan removes said fumes from said vapor space and exhausts said fumes through said exhaust hose.

5. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein said fan housing is connected to said lid such that said fan is communicatively coupled to said vapor space.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [2] 1, wherein said exhaust system further includes a second suction hose having a first end and a second end, said first end being connected to said soaking basin and said second end being connected to said fan housing such that said fan is communicatively coupled to said vapor space.

7. (Cancelled) The system of claim 2, wherein said exhaust system further includes a suction hose having a first end and a second end, said first end being connected to said lid and said second end being connected to said fan housing such that said fan is communicatively coupled to said vapor space.

8. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein said exhaust system further includes a plurality of suction hoses and a plurality of endoscope disinfecting apparati, each of said plurality of suction hoses communicatively coupling one of said plurality of endoscope disinfecting apparati with said fan housing.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said exhaust system further includes a motor for driving said fan, said motor being disposed within a motor housing, said motor housing being connected to said fan housing.

10. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein said fan is an electric fan.

11. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system for removing fumes from an endoscope disinfecting apparatus configured for disinfecting an endoscope with a disinfecting solution, said exhaust system comprising:

a fume hood to provide a vapor containment space over said endoscope disinfecting apparatus;

a fan housing;

a fan disposed within said fan housing;

an exhaust hose connected to said fan housing;

a disinfecting basin that disinfects an air/water and light tube of the endoscope;

an endoscope body section connected to said disinfecting basin that disinfects a body and eye piece of the endoscope;

wherein said disinfecting basin is a pouch connected to a side of said endoscope body section and wherein said fan housing is communicatively coupled to said fume hood such that fumes can be removed from said vapor containment space by said exhaust system.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein said fume [housing] hood further includes an access door that permits access to said endoscope disinfecting apparatus for insertion and removal of the endoscope.

13. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein said fan housing is mounted on said fume hood.

14. (Original) The system of claim 11, further including a suction hose having a first end and a second end, said first end being connected to said fume hood and said second end being connected to said fan housing.

15. (Original) The system of claim 11, further including a plurality of suction hoses, each of said suction hoses having a first end and a second end, each of said first ends being adapted and configured for attachment to one of said plurality of fume hoods, and each of said second ends being connected to said fan housing.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein said endoscope disinfecting apparatus further comprises:

[a disinfecting basin that disinfects an air/water and light tube of the endoscope;
an endoscope body section connected to said disinfecting basin that disinfects a body and eye piece of the endoscope;]
an insertion tube section connected to said endoscope body section that disinfects an insertion tube of the endoscope[; and
wherein said disinfecting basin is a pouch connected to a side of said endoscope body section].

17. (Cancelled) The system of claim 11, wherein said endoscope disinfecting apparatus further comprises:

a disinfecting basin that disinfects an air/water and light tube of the endoscope;
an endoscope body section connected to said disinfecting basin that disinfects a body and eye piece of the endoscope;
an insertion tube section connected to said endoscope body section that disinfects an insertion tube of the endoscope; and
wherein said disinfecting basin is a well connected to a side of said endoscope body section.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [11] 16, wherein [said endoscope disinfecting apparatus further comprises:

a disinfecting basin that disinfects an air/water and light tube of the endoscope;
an endoscope body section connected to said disinfecting basin that disinfects a body and eye piece of the endoscope; and
an insertion tube section connected to said endoscope body section that disinfects an insertion tube of the endoscope,] wherein said insertion tube section is coiled.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said endoscope disinfecting apparatus further comprises a support cylinder and said insertion tube section is coiled around said support cylinder.

20. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein said insertion tube section is coiled between $\frac{1}{2}$ and 5 turns.

21. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system for removing fumes from an endoscope disinfecting apparatus configured for disinfecting an endoscope with a disinfecting solution, said exhaust system comprising:

a fume hood to provide a vapor containment space over said endoscope disinfecting apparatus;

a fan housing;

a fan disposed within said fan housing;

an exhaust hose connected to said fan housing; and

wherein said fan housing is communicatively coupled to said fume hood such that fumes can be removed from said vapor containment space by said exhaust system, and wherein said endoscope disinfecting apparatus includes a support cylinder and an insertion tube section coiled outside and around said support cylinder.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)